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from time to time to 'tighten up' the administration of the Arms Act in this Province and that he had not also examined each case on its merits. Besides, he had been in the district only for a few days. The District Magistrate therefore had to consider each case on its merits with due regard to the instructions issued by the Government. In view of the unsettled conditions at that time, the general policy allowed the issue of licences only in cases where there was urgent necessity for firearms. The District Magistrate refused licences in cases where he was convinced that the applicants were not in genuine need of firearms.

"(*d*), (*e*) & (*f*) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(*g*) As the then Government were convinced that the reasons adduced by the District Magistrate for refusing renewal of the licences in question were on the whole adequate they did not consider it necessary to take any further action in the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"If the application is renewed, will the Hon. Minister reconsider the question of granting licence?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—"Conditions have changed, times have changed, and orders also will have to be changed."

Representation of labour on the Excise Licensing Boards.

* 30 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is provision for representation of labour on the Excise Licensing Boards at Madras and elsewhere;

(*b*) how the representatives for Labour, if any, are elected;

(*c*) who was appointed to the Madras Licensing Board on the last occasion;

(*d*) how many votes he secured and how many were secured by the other candidate;

(*e*) whether the Government or the Minister have received any representations against the selection; and

(*f*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—"(*a*) & (*b*) The rules for the constitution and conduct of Business by Excise Licensing Boards (City and Mufassal) provide that one member of the Board shall be a member of the communities eligible for the ameliorative measure undertaken by the Labour Department or of the labouring classes to be elected from amongst recognized labour organizations, if any. In the absence of such organizations the member is nominated by the Commissioner of Labour in respect of the Madras City Licensing Board and by the Collector of the district in the case of mufassal boards. Under rule 6 (*a*) of the Excise Licensing Board Rules, if anybody allowed to elect representatives fails to

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elect such representatives the Collector will nominate other representatives from that body and if such representatives decline their seats, he may nominate other persons to the seats.

"(c) Sri M. Bhooshanam was nominated by the Collector of Madras under rule 6 (a) of the Excise Licensing Board Rules.

"(d) The Collector of Madras addressed the 42 labour organizations in the city to elect a representative for each association in the first instance and from among the persons so elected to elect one representative to work on the Excise Licensing Board. Only 20 unions replied to the Collector. Seventeen reported the name of Sri Sarangaseshan, one the name of Sri M. Bhooshanam and another the name of Sri Ranganatham and the remaining one union merely made suggestions. As the Labour organizations thus failed to conduct an election to elect *one* representative collectively to the Excise Licensing Board, the Collector had to use his discretion and nominate a member to the Excise Licensing Board under rule 6 (a) of the Excise Licensing Board Rules.

"(e) & (f) A representation objecting to the nomination of the Labour member by the Collector was received from the Secretary, Government Press Workers' Union, and the same was transferred to the Board of Revenue for disposal. The Board declined to interfere in the matter as the nomination was within the discretion of the Collector."

Behaviour of the contractors in the Ellore Municipal markets and cart-stands.

* 31 *Q.*—Sri MOTHAY NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether he and the Commissioner of the Ellore Municipality received any complaints from Sri M. Kotiah Nayudu, journalist, and Secretary of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance Committee, Ellore, and other merchants regarding the alleged high-handed and autocratic behaviour and conduct of the contractors of the Ellore Municipal Markets and Cart-stands, and alleged illegal, forcible and unauthorized collections of moneys towards the fees of the said markets and cart-stands;

(b) how many complaints regarding the same and from whom and on what dates have since been received and enquired into and the results thereof;

(c) whether the District Magistrate and Collector, West Godavari, and the District Superintendent of Police, West Godavari, have received similar complaints from Sri M. Kotiah Nayudu, journalist, and Secretary of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance Committee, Ellore, and whether any attempt has since been made to send for the parties concerned to enquire into this matter; and

(d) if so, what is the result, and if not, why not?